

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 DODE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:RCGRAHAM:DEH
APPROVED BY D:WCHRISTOPHER
ARA:FMCNEIL
S/S:DANDERSON

-----060195 280256Z /64

P 280026Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 164010

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: SHUM, OAS, PA

SUBJECT: PARAGUAYAN BILATERAL.

REF: STATE 156635; ASUNCION 2525

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES FOR THIRTY MINUTES ON JUNE 26. ALSO PRESENT WERE AMBASSADOR LOPEZ ESCOBAR, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCNEIL, SPECIAL ASSISTANT OXMAN, STEPHANIE VAN REIGERSBERG (INTERPRETER) AND DESK OFFICER GRAHAM (NOTETAKER).

2. MR. CHRISTOPHER ASKED FIRST FOR THE MINISTER'S EVALUATION OF HOW THE CURRENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY WAS PROGRESSING. NOGUES REPLIED THAT THE INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN CONTENTIOUS, AND THAT HE HOPED THE SAME TONE WOULD PREVAIL DURING THE COMMISSION MEETINGS. MR. CHRISTOPHER AGREED THAT HE HAD ALSO
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OBSERVED AN ABSENCE OF TENSION DURING HIS BRIEF PARTICIPATION. MR. CHRISTOPHER THEN STATED THAT THE MEXICAN PROPOSAL FOR RESTRUCTURING THE OAS HAD VALUE AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

3. THE MINISTER REGRETTED THAT BECAUSE OF A COMMITMENT HE WAS ABSENT DURING THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION

AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, HIS DELEGATION HAD INFORMED HIM THAT THE PRESENTATION HAD BEEN MADE IN A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT AND WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE GOP IN THE SAME SPIRIT.

4. MR. CHRISTOPHER NOTED THAT WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THE FIXING OF A DATE FOR THE IAHRV VISIT WITH INTEREST AND ANTICIPATION. NOGUES THANKED THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR HIS INTEREST, STATING THAT IT SIGNIFIED THE U.S. CARED ABOUT REMOVING OBSTACLES TO NORMAL RELATIONS. NOGUES INDICATED THAT HE HAD MET WITH IAHRV CHAIRMAN AGUILAR ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION. THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE GOING WELL, AND "SMALL PROBLEMS" CONCERNING THE VISIT WERE BEING WORKED OUT. THE MINISTER STATED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO NAME A DATE FOR THE VISIT, SO AS NOT TO BE CALLED "A LIAR" IF SOMETHING TRANSPIRED TO PREVENT COMPLIANCE, BUT THE VISIT WOULD BE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. MR. CHRISTOPHER OBSERVED THAT THE FIXING OF A DATE WOULD BE GOOD NEWS. HOWEVER, CANDOR REQUIRED SAYING THAT UNTIL THE DATE IS SET, THERE WILL BE A CLOUD OVER OUR RELATIONSHIPS. HE ADDED THAT ONCE THE GOP WORKS OUT THE MODALITIES OF THE VISIT, THE CLOUD WILL BE LIFTED OVER THAT ASPECT OF OUR RELATIONS. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY RECOGNIZED THAT THE GOP HAS MADE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS. HE COMMENDED FOR THE MINISTER'S CONSIDERATION THAT THE

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GOP SHOULD WANT NOW TO HAVE AN IAHRV VISIT TO AUTHENTICATE SUCH IMPROVEMENTS AS HAVE OCCURRED. MINISTER NOGUES CONCLUDED THAT HE WAS VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE U.S. POSITION AND INDICATED SOMEWHAT WRYLY THAT HE WANTED THE ISSUE RESOLVED SINCE HE HOPED THAT THE NEXT TIME HE SAW MR. CHRISTOPHER HE WOULD NOT HAVE TO DISCUSS IT. VANCE

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